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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Summary of work in Chinatown, San Francisco, for week ended September 19, 1903.

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, at San Francisco, under date of September 21, being record of work in Chinatown for week ended September 19, 1903:

Buildings reinspected	186
Rooms reinspected	1,588
Persons inspected	1,563
Sick	20
Prescribed for at Oriental Dispensary	13
Dead examined	4
Necropsies	1
Provisional diagnosis of plague	1
Rats bacteriologically examined	17
Number showing pest infection	0
Places limed and disinfected	380
Times streets swept	3
Sewers flushed	20
Notices to abate plumbing nuisances	48
Plumbing nuisances abated	57
Total number plumbing inspections	151

Report of sanitary inspector at Key West on sanitary conditions at Habana and Daiquiri, Cuba.

KEY WEST, September 15, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to state that, in compliance with Bureau instructions of May 25 to visit Habana, Cuba, at least once a month until October, I left this place last Monday, the 7th instant, reaching Habana the next morning, and remained there until Thursday noon, the 10th instant, when I returned here, and from here proceeded the same night to Miami, Fla. While in Habana I called upon Dr. Carlos Finlay, the chief sanitary officer of the island of Cuba, and discussed with him the reports which seemed to have gained notice in the press of northern United States of contagious sickness at Daiquiri, Cuba.

Doctor Finlay assured me that from reports received by him from Dr. John Guiteras, who had been dispatched to Daiquiri to investigate any sickness thereat, he felt confident that there were no grounds for the alarm which seemed to have prevailed in the United States and for the unfavorable newspaper notices of Cuba's sanitation. Doctor Guiteras says that there has not been, nor is there now existing, at Daiquiri any sickness in anywise suspicious. The sickness and few deaths which have occurred among the workers in the mines at Daiquiri have been due entirely to malarial fever of a malignant type. While in Habana I looked over the business city pretty thoroughly, and regret to state that the sanitation is not up to the mark of a year ago. Every now and then, in the busy portions, I detected the old foul odors which were so common during the Spanish occupancy and which when once smelled never can be forgotten.

In talking to Doctor Trotter, I find that he too is convinced that there has been a "falling off" in sanitary requirements from the year previous. Along the Prado, and outside of the old walls, a better system seems to prevail, and marked attention appears to be given to collecting the droppings of animals and the gathering of trash, the drives being neat and well kept. The cases of yellow fever introduced from Mexico were well handled, especially the case which developed ashore after two or three days from landing. There was no spread, and I am told from reliable source that a vigorous crusade was made in the entire block against mosquitoes and possible infection therefrom.

There is no good reason why quarantine restrictions for yellow fever should be continued by any intelligent community against Habana or Cuba outside of Habana. The past year demonstrated I think pretty clearly the sound judgment and wisdom of the course pursued by the Florida national quarantine authorities in dealing with this problem as far as Cuba is concerned. It was recognized that Cuba was not an infected territory at this time, and until it was demonstrated and proven that yellow fever did exist in Cuba, the policy in communication would have been inconsistent in insisting upon disinfection, immunity certificate, or detention of passengers and cargo. The source of apprehension this season was Mexico, and I am especially indebted to the Bureau for the support of my position toward communication between Mexico and Pensacola by the Gulf Transit Company. Subsequent events at Habana, I think, fully show that my fears were not needless.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH E. PORTER,
Sanitary Inspector.